

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 306587
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /013 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 306587

FOR ASST SECRETARY HOLBROOKE ONLY - EA ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT MANILA 20221 ACTION SECSTATE DEC 23

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 20221

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: LIST OF DETAINEES RECOMMENDED FOR RELEASE

REF: MANILA 19963

1. THIS MORNING (DECEMBER 23) EMBASSY RECEIVED FROM DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE'S OFFICE A LIST OF 859 DETAINEES RECOMMENDED FOR RELEASE. COVERING LETTER BY UNDERSECRETARY CRISOL STATES THAT TEMPORARY RELEASE OF PERSONS ON LIST HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED BY DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE TO PRESIDENT MARCOS AS OF DECEMBER 22. LATER IN DAY EMBASSY RECEIVED SAME LIST TRANSMITTED BY DFA DIPLOMATIC NOTE. WE BELIEVE MARCOS MAY PLAN TO ANNOUNCE RELEASE WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS AS GESTURE OF CHRISTMAS SEASON MAGNANIMITY. (NOTE: RELEASE OF VIRTUALLY ALL MARTIAL LAW DETAINEES TO DATE HAS BEEN "TEMPORARY".
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THIS MEANS PERSONS RELEASED ARE NOT CLEARED OF PENDING CHARGES.)

2. INITIAL REVIEW OF LIST REVEALS IT CONTAINS AT LEAST SOME KNOWN POLITICAL DETAINEES. FACT THAT GENERALLY ACCEPTED FIGURE FOR POLITICAL DETAINEES IS AROUND 500 (FIGURE WHICH MARCOS HIMSELF USED) SUGGESTS THAT MANY ON LIST ARE IN FOR OTHER OFFENSES. MOST PROMINENT POLITICAL DETAINEE

ON LIST IS PLAYWRIGHT BEHN CERVANTES, WHO WAS ARRESTED
OCTOBER 26, 1977. (MANILA 17939). WE HAVE IDENTIFIED
EIGHT OTHER NAMES OF PERSONS LISTED BY AMRSP'S TASK
FORCE ON DETAINEES AS "POLITICAL PRISONERS." SIX OF
THESE APPARENTLY WERE ARRESTED IN SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1977.

3. WE WILL CONSULT WITH CHURCH AND OTHER SOURCES AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE MORE COMPLETE ANALYSIS OF LIST.

4. AMBASSADOR HAS RESPONDED TO SECRETARY ENRILE,
ACKNOWLEDGING LIST AND STATING THAT HE IS CERTAIN
RELEASE OF THOSE DETAINED UNDER MARTIAL LAW WOULD BE
WELCOMED BY US GOVERNMENT.

5. COPIES OF LIST ARE BEING POUCHED EA/PHL.
NEWSOM UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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